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Letter dated 16 March 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to the letter dated 8 December 2003, addressed to you by Andreas D. Mavroyiannis, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 8, 13, 15, 16, 23, and 30 December 2003, on 7, 10, 14, 16, 21, 22, 25, 27 and 28 January, on 6, 11, 12, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25 and 27 February, and on 3, 7, 10 and 12 March 2004, as follows:

On 8 December 2003, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft flying from the FIR of Ankara in one formation twice entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations, before exiting in a reverse direction.

On 13 December 2003, one Gulfstream Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where it departed on the same day, in a reverse direction.

On 15 December 2003, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, where it remained.

On the same day, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Apostolos Andreas, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 16 December 2003, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

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On 23 December 2003, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 30 December 2003, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On the same day, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, where it remained.

On 7 January 2004, one CN-235 and one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where they departed on the same day, in a reverse direction.

On 10 January 2004, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where it departed on the same day, in a reverse direction.

On 14 January 2004, four F-16 Turkish military aircraft coming from a westerly direction entered the Nicosia FIR in two formations, violating the international air traffic regulations, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 16 January 2004, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara in one formation entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the international air traffic regulations, before exiting in a westerly direction.

On 21 January 2004, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where it departed on the same day in a reverse direction.

On 22 January 2004, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara in one formation entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, before exiting in a reverse direction.

On 25 January 2004, one C-235 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Apostolos Andreas, before exiting in a south-easterly direction.

On 27 January 2004, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara in one formation entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations, before exiting in a reverse direction.

On the same day, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara in one formation entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Karpasia, before exiting in a reverse direction.

On 28 January 2004, one C-160 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) The CN-160 coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where it exited on the same day in a reverse direction.

(b) The CN-235 coming from a south-easterly direction entered the FIR of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Apostolos Andreas, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 6 February 2004, one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko and later at the illegal airport of Krini, where it remained.

On the same day, one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type coming from the illegal airport of Krini (where it had previously landed in the morning hours), violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, landed at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where it took off, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 11 February 2004, one C-130 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where they took off on the same day, flying in a reverse direction.

On 12 February 2004, two F-4 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara in one formation entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations, before exiting in a reverse direction.

On 17 February 2004, two F-4 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara in one formation entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations, before departing in a reverse direction.

On 18 February 2004, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where it took off on the same day, in a reverse direction.

On 21 February 2004, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Krini, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the same airport.

On 22 February 2004, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Krini, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the same airport.

On 25 February 2004, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where it took off on the same day, before departing in a reverse direction.

On 27 February 2004, one C-650 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Apostolos Andreas, before exiting in an easterly direction, from where it returned, and departed in a reverse direction.

On 3 March 2004, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where it took off on the same day, and departed in a reverse direction.

On 7 March 2004, two formations of six F-16 Turkish military aircraft, one C-130, one C-160 and one CN-235 coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) The two formations of F-16 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia flying over the occupied area of Cape Apostolos Andreas, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, before exiting in an easterly direction.

(b) The C-130 and C-160 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Apostolos Andreas, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, from where they returned on the same day in a reverse direction.

(c) The CN-235 Turkish military aircraft patrolled over the shore of the occupied area of Cape Apostolos Andreas in a search and rescue mission, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 10 March 2004, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where it departed on the same day, in a reverse direction.

On 12 March 2004, two formations of a total of eight F-16 , one C-160, one C-130 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) The C-160 and C-130 entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating the national airspace of Cyprus, flying over the occupied área of Cape Apostolos Andreas, exiting in a south-easterly direction, from where they returned on the same day, in a reverse direction. The C-130 also flew over the occupied area of Cape Greco.

(b) The CN-235 coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia and patrolled over the shore of the occupied area of Cape Apostolos Andreas in a search and rescue mission, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

(c) The two formations of F-16 entered the FIR of Nicosia from a south-easterly direction, flying over the occupied area of Cape Apostolos Andreas, violating the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I strongly protest against all the above-mentioned violations of the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, which are contrary to international law, as well as to Security Council resolutions on Cyprus. We sincerely hope that the Government of Turkey will respect the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus and will refrain from further violations. We also hope that the Government of Turkey will change its negative stance and contribute substantively to the efforts for a just and functional solution to the Cyprus problem on the basis of United Nations resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 30, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas **Hadjichrysanthou**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.